

Glendon Iron Company  
Hugh Moore Park, east and west of Old Glendon Bridge  
Glendon  
Northampton  
Pennsylvania

HAER No. PA-138

HAER  
PA,  
48-GLEN,  
3-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

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HISTORIC AMERICAN ENGINEERING RECORD

GLENDON IRON COMPANY

HAER No. PA-138

Location: Hugh Moore Park, east and west of Old Glendon Bridge, Glendon, Pennsylvania.

History: In 1843 Boston capitalist Charles Jackson, working through his agent William Firmstone, began to build the Glendon Ironworks along the Lehigh Canal's Section 8 near Easton. The works used canal water to power some of their blowing engines. By 1866 the work's three blast furnaces were said to: "stand together but were built in different years, 1844, 1845, and 1850, and are of different sizes. No. 2 was originally 10 feet but rebuilt in 1850, 14 feet one way and 12 feet the other across the bosh, by 45 feet high. No. 1, 18 feet by 14 feet wide, by 50 feet high; no. 3, 16 feet by 14 feet wide, by 45 feet high. No. 1 uses water power; no. 2 and 3 use steam and water for a common blast. No. 1 made 6,770.5 tons in 1856; no. 3, 6,855 tons in 1856; no. 2 made in 52 weeks of the same year 5,537 tons. These furnaces use the brown hematite ores found on both sides of the Lehigh River in the Lower Silurian Limestone Number II."

Furnace no. 1 blast machinery consisted of 2 cylinders, 62 inches diameter each with 8 foot stroke powered by waterwheels. When rebuilt in 1850, no. 1's waterwheels were replaced by a 400 horse-power steam engine with boilers heated by gas taken from the furnace through an aperture about 10 feet below the tunnel head. By 1873, stack no. 5 had been added, (stack no. 4 was located at the Lower Works near Abbot Street) 18 feet wide by 72 feet high with a 310 ton weekly capacity.

The company was capitalized at \$1,000,000, employed 400 men at Glendon, 150 in its iron mines, and produced 55,000-57,000 tons of pig iron each year. An extensive community of worker's housing, taverns, and tenements grew up across the canal from the works. The hamlet of Glendon is a superb survival of a mid-19th century industrial community. Unfortunately nothing remains of the ironworks but a few scattered ruins. They were demolished by the company in 1878 as it liquidated its holdings.

Source: Mark Edwards, Glendon Iron Co. (unpublished thesis, Lafayette College).  
J. P. Lesley, Iron Manufacturers Guide, (New York, 1866), entries #26, 27, 28.  
Guidebook of the Lehigh Valley Railroad, (Philadelphia: J. Lippincott, 1873), page 37.

Historian: P. H. Stott and D. Hay, HAER Inventory, 8/1/79.